

The only son of a union printer and his Iowa farm wife, Scott grew up in Des Moines, where his childhood had its rough patches. He was bused to schools across town, an experience that put him in contact with a tough crowd. The experience helped teach him how to get along with people from different backgrounds, an ability that he inherited from his mother, who set an example of unpretentiousness.

Scott attributes his work ethic to his father, a veteran of World War II who saw plenty of action—and bloodshed—in the Pacific. He describes his father (both of his parents are deceased) as someone who insisted on order and neatness, took pride in his work, seldom missed a day on the job in 44 years and was always straight with people. "Dad was the most honest person I've ever known," he says. "And loyal, too."

Those loyalties extended to his employer, his co-workers and his labor union. But there was never any question that his son would have a different kind of life. His father often lamented the fact that he had not taken advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the GI Bill, Scott says, "and it was always very clear that I was going to college."

He majored in psychology and played basketball as a walk-on shooting guard. He didn't get a lot of playing time; yet his coach, Tom Davis, hails him as an important asset to a team that sent several players to the NBA.

"I remember Matt Scott as a motivated and aggressive athlete, a good team player who fit in well," says Davis, now the head coach at Drake University in Des Moines—where Scott graduated from law school. "And he was also coachable, someone who could accept criticism and was willing to make changes that would help the team."

"Maybe he was the 10th man on the team when we could only play five," the coach adds. "But I recall what a good teammate Matt was. He was somebody people liked to be with, and practice with, and travel with—and he had a great work ethic."

Some 40 minutes east of Dallas, such comments are echoed by colleagues in the chambers at the spanking-new city hall in Rockwall, seat of Rockwall County, the fastest-growing county in Texas. Scott, who describes himself as a staunch Republican, nonetheless works well with all members of the seven-person council, including dyed-in-the-wool Democrat Margo Nielsen.

"He's brash and he's smart and he's passionate about the issues," says Nielsen, executive director of Rockwall County Helping Hands, a nonprofit social services agency. "And as a lawyer" she adds, "he's trained to think holistically and broadly."

Nielsen sings Scott's praises for his efforts to bring city services to Lake Rockwall Estates. Despite its impressive name, the "estates" is actually a dilapidated mobile-home park that had long been ignored by the city. But, thanks largely to Scott's efforts, Nielsen says, the city is in the process of annexing the unincorporated area and will soon provide, among other things, water and sewer services, trash pickup and improved roads.

"It's not the kind of issue that most city leaders look for," Nielsen says. "There are no political rewards. But under Matt's leadership, it's getting done."

Although he is still in his first term on the council, Scott has also won the confidence of Rockwall's mayor, Bill Cecil, a retired contract-director with the Department of Defense. "He's my mayor pro tem," Cecil says, bragging about Scott the way the famous outlaw Butch Cassidy might say: "That's my sidekick, 'The Sundance Kid.'"

Together, Scott and Cecil share a keen interest in economic development, typified by

\$20 million in public spending that the city is lavishing on a new harbor at nearby Lake Ray Hubbard. Replete with fountains, pools, a waterfall and even a "mini-riverwalk," the public-works project is luring private-sector financing for lakeside condominiums, retail stores and office space. On a tour of the Mediterranean-style construction that is under way, both men are buoyant. "This will be a big economic engine for the city," says Scott.

In junior high school, Scott says, he visited Texas during a winter break and played tennis in shorts and a T-shirt while several inches of snow blanketed the ground back in Des Moines. He vowed that he would someday make balmy Texas his home—a pledge that he kept soon after he completed law school. Staying on a friend's sofa in Dallas, he studied for—and passed—the Lone Star State bar exam.

Newly married and with his ticket punched for practicing law, Scott and his wife pulled up stakes and set out for Texas. Arriving in Dallas, neither had a job lined up. "We had two cars, the stuff in our apartment, and a couple of thousand dollars in wedding money," he says. "That was it."

After honeymooning in Cancun, the couple job-hunted in earnest. His wife found work as a legal secretary and Scott worked as a contract attorney. Ever the walk-on, he landed a job at Cooper, Aldous & Scully in the same way that he made the team at Iowa: by being aggressive.

He met one of the partners, Dallas lawyer Charla Aldous, during a deposition. "I asked her if she was hiring," he recalls, "and she said 'maybe' and I pulled out a résumé and then I got an interview."

He got hired and moved to Bell Nunnally in June 1999.

At Bell Nunnally, Scott has been making a name for himself handling the full panoply of employment law, including discrimination, workers' compensation and sexual harassment cases. His expertise was ratified when District Judge Martin Feldman in Louisiana selected him to chair the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals' draft of the pattern jury charges for employment law. It took more than three years of effort getting the seven-member committee to find common ground.

His skill at being a team player came in handy there as well. One of his law partners, Thomas Case, lauds Scott for his ability to build bridges between the plaintiff and defense attorneys who were evenly represented—and divided—on the committee. "The way he ran [the committee] was by trying to reach consensus," Case says. "When they couldn't reach agreement, they put their differences in the footnotes" (That makes it "subject to further development by the district courts," Case adds.)

Case—who is 20 years Scott's senior and is something of a mentor to him—says that employment law cases are often "emotionally charged." He says people become so attached to their jobs—and so identified by what they do—that "trying employment cases is an awful lot like dealing with death or divorce."

Although Texas is an "employment at will" state—which means that, in the absence of a contract or labor-union agreement, termination does not require cause—juries may nonetheless feel sympathy for a plaintiff who has lost his or her job. But one of Scott's strongest suits is that "he has a good appreciation for what will or won't play with a jury," Case says. "Jurors have all been employees, and it's likely that a few of them have had an adverse experience with an employer."

One of the hardest parts of Scott's job can be convincing a client that what seems like

an obvious argument for an employee's dismissal will not only leave a jury unmoved but could be inadmissible. Scott recalls a recent case in which the owner of an apartment complex fired a maintenance worker who was not only doing sub-par work but had a criminal record.

But the, employer was miffed when she learned that Scott was not willing to introduce the ex-employee's criminal record. "She was British and frustrated that someone could file a lawsuit against her but she couldn't bring up the person's criminal record," Scott, says. "She wasn't familiar with the U.S. judicial system."

Despite his best efforts at negotiating a compromise, Scott says that he had to remove himself from the case. "The sticking point was what I told her I would—and wouldn't—do," he says. "She thought we could use [the plaintiff's criminal record] to make the lawsuit just go away," he adds. "Smaller clients get frustrated and don't understand that the process takes time."

In a state known for its flamboyant trial attorneys, Scott's colleagues cite his straightforwardness and plain speaking as a key asset in the courtroom. "He does a good job at presenting his position and of being himself," Case says. "Young lawyers don't realize that what works best is just being who they are. Juries appreciate someone like Matt who comes across as solid and sincere and prepared. Juries have a knack at seeing through an act."

Now the father of three young children, Scott has ambitions for higher office when he is finally term-limited after six years on the Rockwall City Council. "Anyone who runs for public office and says he doesn't have higher political ambitions is a liar," he says. "Sure, I have higher political ambitions. I already ran for the state House [in Iowa] when I was in law school."

"So, yes, I'd like to hold other offices. But the Texas Legislature is out because it is a part-time job that would destroy my full-time job. So I'd have to look at something that either allowed me to continue practicing law, as the city council does, or something that would be a fulltime, paying job that replaces my legal practice."

"So right now I have no idea what my ambitions are," he says. "But, yes, I do have them."

TRIBUTE TO CREDIT UNION AND COMMUNITY LEADER RALPH GOODWIN

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding American and Oregonian, Mr. Ralph Goodwin, and to draw my colleagues' attention to the tremendous contributions Ralph has made to his industry and community.

Madam Speaker, this weekend I will have the honor of attending in picturesque John Day, Oregon the community celebration to commemorate Ralph Goodwin's retirement and the good he has done for his state and community.

On July 13, 2007, after 28 years of highly successful credit union leadership, Ralph will formally relinquish the reigns as CEO and president of the Old West Federal Credit Union. When Ralph assumed the top post in 1979 with what was then called the Grant

County Federal Credit Union, membership numbered 800 and assets were \$2.5 million. As Ralph enters retirement, he leaves the Old West Federal Credit Union in excellent shape with over 7,500 members in four branch offices serving eight counties in eastern Oregon and assets of over \$80 million. The positive growth under Ralph's leadership is remarkable, and a testament to how Ralph has always conducted business.

A true believer and advocate in the credit union movement, Ralph Goodwin's contribution to the communities of eastern Oregon and credit union philosophy is second to none. Through the World Council of Credit Unions, Ralph has participated in and been an indispensable part of efforts to bring credit unions and credit union philosophy to underdeveloped countries in the world, traveling to the Philippines and Uzbekistan to further this goal. Ralph's many years of civic leadership and steadfast commitment to the rural communities he has served has made a rewarding impact on many credit union members and employees that have benefited from his financial guidance and leadership example.

Throughout the credit union movement in Oregon and nationally, Ralph Goodwin is recognized as a leader and visionary whose passion and commitment to the credit union motto of people helping people is a core attitude of how credit union business is conducted. The high regard Ralph's colleagues have for him is exemplified by the service he has delivered and acknowledgment he has received on the state and national level, including being chosen as the Advocate of the Year by the Credit Union Association of Oregon as well as receiving the association's Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual. Ralph is also well known and respected by many members on both sides of the political aisle in the Oregon Legislature and United States Congress as they can always rely on solid and straightforward information from him regarding credit union policy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ralph Goodwin, and delivering our thanks for the tremendous good he has fostered in the credit union movement and throughout Oregon. Ralph can now finally take a break with his lovely wife, Toni, and their seven children and 15 grandchildren.

Thank you for all that you've done, Ralph. I'm very proud to count you and Toni as my good friends, and wish you both the best over many happy years to come.

HONORING JONATHAN MICHAEL
ROSSI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor PFC Jonathan Michael Rossi, who was killed on July 1, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jonathan was part of the B Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas, and was killed when his patrol encountered an insurgent attack involving an improvised explosive device and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Private Rossi personally, but by all accounts he

was a courageous young man who was devoted to serving his country and family. Jonathan grew up in Safety Harbor, Florida. Following his longtime dream and strong sense of duty to country, he joined the Army only two months after graduating from Countryside High School in 2005.

Jonathan was a reserved young man who had spent much of his youth with the goal of service his country. Having lost his mother at a young age to cancer, he demonstrated a sense of courage and strength, which he brought to the battlefield.

During his short time as an Army infantryman, Jonathan earned a great deal of recognition for his service. Among his many awards and honors are a Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Infantrymen Badge, Parachutist Badge, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Jonathan's family. He leaves behind his father, Michael, who also faithfully served his country for 20 years, and seven siblings and step-siblings. May God bless the Rossi family and continue to watch over the country that Private Rossi so loved. We shall never forget him.

ON THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this week the world paused to remember and reflect on the horrific acts of brutality, wanton cruelty and mass murder committed in Srebrenica a mere 12 years ago.

On Sunday, I joined a distinguished group of leaders and survivors to honor those brave Bosniaks who suffered and died—victims of the genocide.

Among those who led the solemn ceremony was Dr. Mustafa Cerić, the Reis-ul-Ulema, President of the Council of Ulema in Bosnia. Reis Cerić is an inspiring man of God and internationally recognized as a man of peace and extraordinary compassion—and a friend.

Also there was President Haris Silajdzic, a Bosnian leader I have known and deeply respected since the early 90s. Dr. Silajdzic, throughout the darkness and moral confusion of the Balkan war was a powerful, persistent, reasonable and dynamic voice for peace, human rights, the rule of law and accountability for genocide.

In my remarks, I tried to convey to our Bosnian friends that Americans and others of goodwill throughout the world again extend their deepest condolences and respect to the mothers and surviving family members who have endured unspeakable sorrow and loss that time will never abate. I assured the survivors of our earnest prayers.

Madam Speaker, the international community must recommit itself to apprehending and bringing to justice once and for all those who perpetrated these heinous crimes, including Mladić and Karadžić.

Justice is the essential prerequisite to sustainable reconciliation. No matter how long it

takes, we must never tire or grow weary in the pursuit of justice. Renewal and a further consolidation of democracy must be rooted in systemic reform, including police reform. Perhaps some of the lessons learned from successful initiatives in Northern Ireland might have application there.

Looking back, it is almost beyond comprehension that the Srebrenica genocide occurred at all.

Future historians, Madam Speaker, will be hard pressed to ever understand how a UN Security Council designated "safe area," guarded by a significant deployment of UN peacekeepers, backed up by NATO's superior air power, could have capitulated in the face of unmitigated evil and enabled one of the most despicable acts in human history.

After Bosnian Serb forces attacked elements of UNPROFOR beginning in early July 1995, a series of gross miscalculations, mistakes and betrayal quickly led to the systematic slaughter of over 8,000 Bosniaks, mostly men.

Adding unnecessary insult to injury some in the international community further exacerbated matters by employing euphemisms that masked the reality of the genocide. Somehow, they just couldn't utter the word genocide.

Nevertheless, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia found "beyond any reasonable doubt that a crime of genocide was committed in Srebrenica." More recently, the verdict of the International Court of Justice that genocide occurred in Srebrenica begs the question: What are the consequences?

Two years ago, I authored a resolution that overwhelmingly passed the U.S. Congress that clearly and unambiguously condemned the Srebrenica genocide and stated in part that "all persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) should be apprehended and transferred to The Hague without further delay, and all countries should meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the ICTY at all times . . ."

Madam Speaker, the genocideurs would like nothing better than that we forget. And that, of course, is something we cannot do. Ever.

LINKS BETWEEN OIL, POVERTY,
AND CORRUPTION ON CON-
TINENT OF AFRICA

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the links between oil, poverty, and corruption that plague too many people on the continent of Africa.

Kensington International is a United States-based firm that is owed money by the Government of the Republic of Congo. In an effort to collect on its debts, Kensington took the Government of the Republic of Congo to Court in Hong Kong. The Government of Congo, based in Brazzaville, had claimed that, because of the poverty of their nation, that they were unable to pay their debts.

I would encourage my colleagues to examine the documents produced as evidence in this court case. They are available on the Internet at www.globalwitness.org, under the heading, "Congo: Is President's son paying for